

5PM Christmas Eve Service

WELCOME

Merry Christmas everyone! Thank you so much for joining McClure United Church for this time of worship tonight. It is our hope that even though Christmas perhaps isn't what we hoped it might be in terms of celebrating with family and friends... that you have still been able to dream into being that magical spirit of Christmas... that you have been able to hold for yourself and your loved ones the hope, peace, joy and love of the Advent season and now the miracle that is held in the birth of God's presence among us.

We celebrate this birth... of the baby Jesus... tonight with the help of the children and a few parents from McClure and St. Martin's United Churches. Thank you so much to Reverend Nora Vedress of Prince Albert for allowing us to use a pageant she wrote for this year. And thanks to all of the families who helped make this covid Christmas a special one.

Also, thanks to the Elchuk family... Mike, Erin, Brooke and Amy for lighting our Christ Candle tonight... to Annalise Reinhart for singing our Advent song and to all of the amazing musicians who came together to make this celebration possible.

I just want to quickly invite you to join us tonight at 9pm for an online communion service using Zoom. We know that Christmas Eve communion has been an important tradition for many of you and we are grateful to be able to continue this tradition with the use of technology. Instructions for how to join and what to bring can be found on our website, facebook page and in the email link which was sent to you last Sunday. If you can't find it, please email or call me and I will get it to you before 9.

And at 7pm our lessons and carols service will be posted on FB, Insta, Youtube and our website... lots and lots of everyone's favourite Christmas songs as he hear again the story of Jesus.

So now let us move more deeply into this celebration.

ADVENT SONG: "Dream a Dream"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING PRAYER

O God, this year, we dreamed of world peace.
We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.
We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.
We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.
For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.
So help us to make room in our being to dream yet again,
of a world without fear, and that you are always near.
For it is almost Christmas.
Love is almost here.
O God, may we dream to see, and hope to believe.
Let us worship you, Holy One.

HYMN: "O Come All Ye Faithful" VU #60

PAGEANT

HYMN: "Joy to the World" VU #59

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We come to you tonight with dreams tucked into our pockets,
admitting that at times it feels risky to dream.
At times it feels risky to ask for too much, to believe in that which we cannot
see.
So instead we make wishes on stars and search for luck in clover fields.
Instead of sinking into you, we try to control the narrative.
However, somewhere rumbling deep in our heart,
there is a dream of a better world,
trapped like a caged bird.
Open our eyes to you in our midst.
Give us the confidence of Mary to sing into the mystery.
Dust your dream for us off the shelves of our hearts until once more,
we are those who dream.

Time for silent prayer

Amen.

HYMN: "Silent Night" VU #67

BLESSING:

As we go from our worship this night,
May the joy of the angels sing in our voices;
may the hope of the shepherds enliven our minds;
may the wisdom of the wise ones guide our steps;

may the courage of Joseph and the faith of Mary strengthen our spirits;
and may the love of the Christ shine in our hearts.

God's blessing be upon you all, this holy night and forever. Amen.